

SENSITIVE

PAGE 01 SITUATION(S) MESSAGE(S) LISTING

DATE 06/20/74//171

SITUATION: HAK TRIP
 SUBJECT CATEGORY: TOHAK II

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

MESSAGE:

IMMEDIATE

O 141949Z JUN 74

FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK 094//

TO RODMAN FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT

UNCLAS WH41909

TOHAK 094

UPI095

(ARMS NEGOTIATOR)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- PAUL NITZE RESIGNED TODAY FROM THE U.S. NEGOTIATING TEAM AT THE STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATIONS TALKS, INDICATING THE "DEPRESSING REALITY" OF WATERGATE MADE PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS UNLIKELY.

IN A ONE SENTENCE LETTER ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT NIXON AND DATED TODAY, NITZE SAID, "MY REQUEST OF MAY 28 TO RESIGN NOT HAVING BEEN ACCEPTED, I NOW FEEL COMPELLED UNILATERALLY TO TERMINATE MY APPOINTMENT TODAY."

HIS RESIGNATION CAME EVEN AS COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER LEONID BREZHNEV SAID IN MOSCOW THE SOVIET UNION IS READY TO AGREE WITH THE U.S. TO RESTRICT UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TESTS. NITZE WAS CHIEF PENTAGON NEGOTIATORS ON THE U.S. SALT TALKS TEAM.

NITZE IS THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO DEFENSE SECRETARY JAMES SCHLESINGER FOR THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS. HE IS A DEMOCRAT WHO SERVED DURING THE EIGHT KENNEDY-JOHNSON YEARS AS ASSISTANT DEFENSE SECRETARY, NAVY SECRETARY, AND DEPUTY DEFENSE SECRETARY.

IN A SEPARATE STATEMENT TO THE PRESS, NITZE SAID, "IT WOULD BE ILLUSORY TO ATTEMPT TO IGNORE OR WISH AWAY THE DEPRESSING REALITY OF THE TRAUMATIC EVENTS NOW UNFOLDING IN OUR NATION'S CAPITAL AND OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF THOSE EVENTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA....

"UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES....I SEE LITTLE PROSPECT OF NEGOTIATING MEASURES WHICH WILL ENHANCE MOVEMENT TOWARD (SLOWING THE STRATEGIC ARMS RACE)."

UPI 06-14 01153 PED

***** WHSR COMMENTS *****

SECFL

PSN:018205

DTG:141949

TOR:1651937

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NOTE: TEXT OF LETTER-OF-RESIGNATION SENT AS TOHAK 93

BT

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